

Dobell (H.)

REPORT

ON

Presented by
Dr. H. Dobell.

"Pancreatic Emulsion of fat."

BY HORACE DOBELL, M.D.,

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The following Editorial note appeared in the *Lancet*, Nov. 17,
1866:—

"THE DIETETIC VALUE OF PANCREATED FATS.

"It would be interesting to know to what extent the experience of those medical men who have used the 'pancreatic emulsion' of fat, accords with that which Dr. Dobell has now recorded in our columns in about two hundred cases of consumption. Several thousand pounds weight of this new medical agent have, we believe, been supplied by the makers to the order of medical men in this and other countries; and we think, therefore, that the time has arrived when some perfectly impartial evidence should be added to that of the ingenious author of this treatment. The remedy has been placed fairly before the profession, the author reserving to himself no pecuniary interest or advantage whatever; and if the utility of the remedy bears any proportion to the large demand which has arisen for it, we ought to know this clearly, and to understand and appreciate our obligations."

With the sense and justice of this suggestion I entirely agreed, and in order to assist in carrying it out, I obtained from Messrs. Savory and Moore the names of some of the principal places from which they had received orders for Pancreatic Emulsion, and then posted to the leading medical men in those places the following letter and Schedule of questions.

I had no other means than this of ascertaining who had used the Emulsion. But it is evident that in this way I must have sent to many who have not used it, and must have failed to reach a large number of those who had obtained it through other wholesale chemists than Savory and Moore, through provincial chemists, and other indirect channels.

[See last page.]

REPORT TABULATED

SIGNATURE.	ADDRESS.	1—In how many cases of Consumption have you prescribed the Pancreatic Emulsion prepared by SAVORY and MOORE?	2—In what dose, at what interval after food, and for how long a time did you administer it in each case?	3—What is your opinion of its effects upon:—1. Digestion? 2. Nutrition? 3. Weight of the patient?
Henry Gibbons, M.R.C.S. 28, Stafford Street, Wolverhampton.	Two cases.		One teaspoonful one hour after food for two months.	1. No effects. 2. Good. 3. Increase.
John Fox, M.D., Ardgowan Sq., Greenock.	About twenty-four.		One teaspoonful one hour after each meal. Not continued long, owing to the expense.	1. Nearly all the patients stated that it improved digestion. 2 & 3 cannot answer.
J. Swift Walker, M.D., Hanley, Staffordshire.	About thirty.		A teaspoonful three times a day, about ten hours after food.	1. Increases appetite and promotes digestion. 2. Increases. 3. Increases.
Henry S. Purdon, M.D., College Square, Belfast.	Three cases.		In teaspoonful doses, after food, administered in milk.	1. Promotes digestion. 2. Patient appears to grow in weight and in flesh. 3. Ditto.
R. Gutteridge, M.D., London Road, Leicester.	One case.		Not stated.	The patient rapidly gained both flesh and strength.
C. Glenn Bott, M.D., 2. Eyre Street, Sheffield.	About nine.		Half a teaspoonful in milk three times a day, half to three-quarters of an hour after food.	The result would be to encourage my continuing to use it.
H. S. Leverton, M.R.C.S., &c. Truro, Cornwall.	A case of general atrophy. Case of disease of stomach, &c., &c.,		According to the printed directions.	It decidedly assists digestion and nourishes the body.
John Skaife, M.R.C.S., &c., Northampton Square, London.	Six cases noted, several others not noted.		One teaspoonful twice a day, one hour after food, from two weeks to three months.	Digestion and nutrition are improved. Weight is increased.

FROM SCHEDULES.

	5—What is your opinion of the effects of the Emulsion in :—1. The true first stage of Consumption Pre-tubercular? 2. The stage of Tuberculisation? 3. The stage of Softening? 4. The stage of excavation?	GENERAL REMARKS.
4—Have you found that patients can take the Emulsion when they cannot take Cod-liver Oil?		
Yes, far better.	1. Very good. 2. Very good. 3. Very good. 4. No effects.	Very far superior to Cod-liver Oil. The only objection to its general use being the price. Wherever price is alluded to in this report, the price in England is meant. The American preparation is only one half the English in London.
Yes, occasionally.	1. Certainly useful. 2, 3, 4. All the patients stated that they were benefitted by its use.	Have not had time to warrant me in giving a decided opinion on its merits. I must say, however, that I am favorable to it, and would willingly continue its use if permitted by the Directors of this Infirmary.
Yes.	1. Very good; much superior to Cod-liver oil. 2. Ditto, ditto. 3. No effect. 4. No effect.	In cases of old standing bronchitis and also in debility, after a severe attack, is superior to any other remedy.
Yes.	1. In one case a boy aged 12, attacked by first stage of phthisis, the effects of the remedy were amazing; and at the present time no symptoms of consumption remain. 3. One case, a man, age 40 stage of softening, derived much benefit from the Emulsion and has gained in strength and flesh. One case only a few months under treatment.	The first case was in Belfast Charitable Society Infirmary. The reason I have not tried the Emulsion more frequently is, that its expense is rather too much especially in hospital and dispensary practice.
After the second bottle she took such a dislike to the flavor that she would not resume it.	Second stage, rapid increase in flesh and strength.	I have used the Emulsion in one case, second stage, with considerable success. It strikes me, if the flavor could be varied, or if it could be sent out without flavor, it would be a very great improvement.
In eight cases out of nine it agreed.	Not answered.	I am sorry I have not sufficient data to reply to all your questions. I was only able to use the Emulsion for a short time, in a few cases, about twelve months ago, while House Surgeon to the Leeds Dispensary.
Most decidedly in two or three well marked cases.	I intend to try the Emulsion thoroughly in cases of phthisis.	In cases of debility wasting, &c., from any cause, this is a most valuable remedy.
Yes	The general plight of the body is improved in every stage.	The Emulsion invariably agrees, unless there is some special stomach derangement.

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J. P. Cassells, M.D., 419, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow.	In a very large number Dr. Cassell writes again, July 23, 1867: "Since my last report I have had a run of cases suitable for the use of the Emulsion, and in which I have prescribed it very largely, with much benefit, so increasing the favorable opinion I have already expressed."	From 1 drachm to $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. about one hour after food. In some cases it was used for about twelve days, in many for some months and in one (1st stage) for about eight months using $\frac{1}{2}$ oz doses with the most marked benefit. Indeed, I am inclined to regard it as having effected a cure.	Improvement in most cases 2 & 3. In those cases in which I have prescribed it for a long time it has improved the nutrition and increased the weight of the patient.
C. B. Garrett, M.D., Hastings.	About fourteen.	A dessert spoonful three times a day, almost directly after meals.	1. Agrees well. 2 & 3. Adds to weight and strength.
John Firth, M.R.C.S., Macclesfield.	Seven cases.	One teaspoonful two hours after food, in two cases for three months, in four cases for one month.	1. Did not disagree. Appetite improved. 2. Improved 3. Apparently increased in all. Not weighed.
A. Mercer Adams, M.D., Edin., Boston, Lincolnshire.	One case.	One hour after food, twice a day.	I found it most serviceable. The patient could not take oil. Was in last stage of consumption. Rallied for a time by using it. Digestion improved and weight increased.
A. C. Clifton, M.R.C.S., Abingdon Street, Northampton.	Thirty-two.	A teaspoonful half hour after food, in fourteen cases for one month, in four for fourteen days, in four for ten weeks, in eight for two months.	In a few cases it appeared to improve digestion. In other cases it was nil. In all but three cases the patients improved in nutrition and weight.
G. T. W. Mugliston, M.D., Maryland Point, E.	Five cases.	One teaspoonful one hour after meals, three times a day in water, milk, or brandy and water	1. Assists digestion. 2. Improves nutrition. 3. In one case the patient gained $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. in six weeks.

FROM SCHEDULES.

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5—What is your opinion of the effects of the Emulsion in :—1. The true first stage of Consumption Pre-tubercular? 2. The stage of Tuberculosis? 3. The stage of Softening? 4. The stage of excavation?

Yes.

1, 2. When it can be borne by the stomach benefit has in most cases followed, using large doses.

3, 4. A decided opinion cannot be given, for the reason that in these stages I have not been able to prevail upon patients or their friends to continue its use for a length of time sufficient to test its properties.

2. 3. Good in both.

Yes, in every case.

1. In two cases the patients are now quite well.
2. Two still under treatment.

In the last stages.
Three dead

Yes.

I have only experience of its use in the softening stage. But I should think it very useful in the earlier periods and shall not fail to make a trial of it.

Yes, generally, though some preferred Cod-liver Oil.

1. Decidedly beneficial.
2. do. do.
3. Nil, except in three cases, which were benefitted.

4. Nil.

1. Not had the opportunity of trying it.
2, 3, 4. It improves the strength and renders the expectoration more healthy and less copious.

Yes.

I have found it equally beneficial in cases of wasting in poor children. And in one case of malignant disease of the pancreas—female, aged forty-five—where large masses of fatty-looking matter passed in the stools and there was great wasting of the body, the patient improved much in general condition under the use of the Emulsion, and the fatty matter ceased to pass in the stools in a rapid manner.

GENERAL REMARKS.

I think it a splendid invention

I consider Emulsion a valuable addition to the nutritive agents required in the treatment of phthisis, and it is especially useful in cases where Cod-liver Oil cannot be taken.

No remarks.

The Pancreatic Emulsion seems to give general satisfaction and benefit, which is a great consideration, because there are many persons who cannot take Cod-liver Oil. I have recommended its use in three cases in second stage (softening.)

(1.) Mrs. —, thirty five, had two children ill two years. After taking Emulsion six weeks, gained 3½ lbs. cough and other symptoms much improved.

(2.) Miss —, twenty-eight, ill one year and a half has taken Emulsion two months, with diminution of coughs and expectoration.

(3.) Miss —, strumous abscesses, and softening of both lungs; loss of strength, appetite, and weight. Has taken Emulsion eight weeks, with decided advantage over Cod-liver Oil. All symptoms better. Intends to continue Emulsion.

4th case. Mrs. —, twenty-seven; five children; could not take Cod-liver Oil; it deranged digestion. Has taken Emulsion one month, with great benefit; increase of weight and bulk. Cough much better and feels stronger.

5th case. Mr. W —, the most marked of all (stage of excavation,) after a long course of Emulsion, he now attends regularly to his duties, as foreman in the fitting-shop of the Great Eastern Railway.

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Charles F. Lewis, L.R.C.P., Edin. (Exam), Henfield, Sussex		At present only two.	One teaspoonful two hours after breakfast and dinner; three months one case twelve months the other, and still taking it.	In both cases appetite very much improved. In one case nutrition and weight increased; the other remains much in the same way.
A. E. Sansom, M.D., Lond., 29 Duncan Terrace, London.		I have notes of only five cases in private practice.	To adults, two teaspoonsfuls in milk soon after meals.	1. Tendency to improve digestion, certainly not to impair it. 2. In some cases marked improvement. 3. Not noted.
Julius Althaus, M.D., 18, Bryanstone Street, Portman Square.		When Physician to the Royal Infirmary, I prescribed it in about twenty cases of tubercular phthisis, where Cod-liver Oil did not agree.	From 2 drachms to $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. twice a day.	1. Much improved. 2. Much improved. 3. No data.
Henry Colley Marsh, M.B. Lond. &c., Rochdale,		Very numerous.	Sometimes a teaspoonful after food four times a day, sometimes a tablespoonful half hour after breakfast and after dinner, during many months when Bourne.	1. Often improves it—sometimes produces biliaryness. 2. When digestion is improved, nutrition is improved. 3. When nutrition is improved, the weight increases.
W. Alexander, M.D., M.R.C.P., Senior Physician, Halifax Infirmary, Halifax.		Probably a dozen.	A tablespoonful, with usually Almond Emulsion, to adults, a dessert spoonful for children, in the intervals of food-taking.	1. The stomach has usually tolerated it well 3. It seemed to arrest emaciation.

FROM SCHEDULES.

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Yes, in one case the patient was unable to take Cod-liver Oil, in the other both Emulsion and Oil; and when the supply of Emulsion was exhausted, missed it very much.

Yes this is the general rule

1. Have not tried it.
2. Ditto.
3. Marked benefit in one case. In both cases all moist sounds quite disappeared.

I have no hesitation in saying that in the two cases in which I have given the Emulsion, it has quite exceeded my expectations. In one patient when she commenced the Emulsion, the left lung was in the stage of excavation, and the right in the stage of softening, which has been arrested, and the moist sounds in the left lung cleared away. I am now giving it in a third case, but has only been taking it five days, so cannot report upon it at present.

Yes, it agreed with all but one.

2. In one case of consolidation of left upper lobe, after the use of Emulsion one month, there was marked improvement, and dulness could not be detected.
- 3, 4. In a case of rapid formation of tubercle. Emulsion seemed inert. When the sounds are very moist at commencement of observation. Emulsion, seemed to cause only slight improvement.

When the sounds were tolerably dry, the formation of tubercles slow, the Emulsion seemed to exert a marked protective influence. I have now under my care two cases of the stage of excavation. In one case, twelve months, in the other, five months have passed without the slightest increase of the signs, as evidenced by physical examination. In both the sounds remain remarkably dry.

Yes, and *vice versa*.

Not having kept notes of the case, cannot give exact information; but it seemed to act best in what you call the 2nd and 4th stages.

1. Most excellent.
2. Very excellent.
3. Doubtful.
4. Very doubtful

I have prescribed Emulsion in a number of cases of nervous disorders, especially hysteria associated with anaemia, and paralytic affections connected with malnutrition. In all of these cases Emulsion was well borne, and appeared to be of considerable benefit in improving assimilation and general condition of the patient.

I have often found that Cod-liver Oil in capsules is better borne than in any other form. I give one capsule immediately after each meal for a week, then two for a fortnight; then stop a week, and begin with two, and go on to three. Those patients who have failed to take the Emulsion have taken these very well.

According to their own statements, yes; and when the stomach is deranged.

1. Not employed in this stage.
2. No marked effects.
3. Allays the gastric irritability.
4. Aids nutrition, and thus prolongs life.

GENERAL REMARKS.

[LETTER.]

"84 HARLEY STREET, March, 1867.

"DEAR SIR:—Allow me to direct your attention to the accompanying Editorial note which appeared in the *Lancet*, Nov. 17, 1866.

"It is clearly impracticable for any medical journal to publish separate reports of all the cases in which the Pancreatic Emulsion has now been used by different medical men.

"I have, therefore, drawn up the enclosed questions to facilitate the collection of impartial evidence, as suggested by the *Lancet*, in a form in which it can be systematically arranged for publication within a limited space.

"If you will kindly fill up the enclosed schedule at your leisure and send it within one month from this date to the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, addressed to the Hon. Secretary, I will see that the results are fairly tabulated and published as soon as a sufficient number of reports has been received.

"I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

"HORACE DOBELL."

On a careful examination it will be found that the experience of the effects of the Pancreatic Emulsions of Fat, as expressed in this report by a number of perfectly independent observers, corresponds in a remarkable degree with the results of my own investigations and experiments already published.* It will also be observed—and it is an important fact—that the greatest confidence in the remedy is expressed by those who have given it in the largest number of cases.

*See *Lancet*, Sept. 10th, 1864; June 10th, 1865; Nov. 11th and 18th, 1865; *British Medical Journal*, Jan. 20th, and Feb. 20th, 1866. "On Tuberculosis; its Nature, Cause, and Treatment," Churchill, 1866. "On the true First Stage of Consumption," Churchill, 1867.

 The foregoing pages constitute about one half of Dr. Dobell's original report.